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TITLE

FISH MEASURING DEVICE

SPECIFICATION

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

The fishing laws and regulations for most jurisdictions prescribe certain limitations for fish, which may be legally taken by fishermen. Such laws and regulations are felt to be very necessary to permit the effective management of fish population and to insure that fish as a resource for recreation or other purposes shall not be unnecessarily depleted. Any fisherman found by an enforcement officer with fish, which do not comply with appropriate restrictions is liable to lose the right to fish or to be severely fined or both.

It is, therefore, necessary for fishermen to insure that the fish they catch and retain comply with length of catch limits. These limits are often different for different fish species. This complicates the problem faced by the fishermen of checking each fish caught to insure that it meets legal requirements. The fisherman must keep in mind the established legal length for each species.

A caught fish must be measured immediately after it is caught so that it can be returned alive to the fishing waters should it prove to be smaller than permitted. The flapping of live fish complicates the problem of obtaining accurate measurements. Wet, slimy fish are difficult to hold and even harder to hold in a fixed position long enough to obtain an accurate measurement. As has been well recognized, the use of a tape ruler or yardstick type device or a ruler on the top of a cooler, while commonly available, are difficult to handle at the same time as a live fish. Having used one of these devices has resulted in an illegal measurement of a fish. This experience is a direct result of this invention.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is the object of the present invention to provide a fish measuring device that will reduce the manhandling of fish that need to be returned to the water and permit live release as required.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a fish measuring device that can measure both smaller and large

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It is an object of the present invention to provide a fish measuring device which simplifies the task of measuring fish by supporting the weight of the fish, and aligning the mouth of the fish with a scale during measurement, thus freeing the hands of the fisherman for pinching the fish's tail or for otherwise assisting in the measurement.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a fish measuring device which restrains the movement of the fish while it is being measured so that an accurate measurement may be quickly obtained.

The fish measuring device of the present invention reduces the time the fish is out of the water thereby increasing it's chances of survival. If the fish must be released the fish measuring device of the present invention is put into the water to permit the fish to swim away.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

- 1) 1A Shows top view and length page 4
- 2) 2A Shows side view and height page 4
- 3) 3A Shows end view and handle page 6
- 4) 4A Shows fish in measuring device page 7
- 5) 5A Shows a fish being measured page 7

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

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The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the various figures.

FIG. 1 shows a fish measuring device 10 of this invention having a fish support surface of 30 inches in length 11, showing rulers in inches and in centimeters 12, showing measuring device 5 inches in width 13, and a handle 1 inch width 14.

FIG. 2 shows a fish measuring device 10 of this invention having a high of 5 inches at one end 15 and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ at the other end 16.

FIG. 3 shows a fish measuring device end showing 6 inches wide 17